GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4082
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2010
WADHWA COMMITTEE ON PDS
Choudhary Shri Nikhil Kumar;Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan;Kumar Shri Vishwa Mohan;Owaisi Shri Asaduddin;Pandey Shri Ravindra Kumar;Pandurang Shri Munde Gopinathrao;Singh Shri Ijyaraj ;Singh Shri Uday Pratap;Thamaraiselvan Shri R.;Yadav Shri Dharmendra

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Wadhwa Committee, constituted to study the Public Distribution System (PDS) and suggest measures for its improvement has since submitted its report;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and salient features of the recommendations made in the report;

(c) whether the said Committee has also pointed out rampant corruption in PDS, diversion of foodgrains, faulty identification of beneficiaries as the reasons for failure of PDS;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the corrective steps taken by the Government in the light of the said report?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a)to(e): Central Vigilance Committee (CVC), constituted by Hon'ble Supreme Court to study functioning of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), has submitted its reports to the Hon'ble Supreme Court in respect of 12 States/UTs, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chandigarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Orissa, Rajasthan, Kerala and Uttarakhand as well as a report on Computerisation of PDS Operations. A gist of recommendations contained in the Committee's reports, which are common to most of the States/Union Territories as well as report on Computersation of PDS Operations, is at Annex-I.

The reports of the Committee relating to States/UTs have been sent to concerned State/UT Governments to examine and send comments along with their action taken report.

Government has issued directions to State Governments to streamline functioning of TPDS by enforcing provisions of PDS (Control) Order, 2001 and to implement Nine-Point action plan which includes, inter -alia, use of information technology, display of fair price shop-wise and district wise allocations of PDS commodities on web-sites for public scrutiny, creating awareness among public about PDS operations and training Vigilance Committees on intricacies of PDS operations.

ANNEX-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE UNSTARRED QUESTION No.4082 FOR ANSWER ON 20.04.2010 IN THE LOK SABHA

CENTRAL VIGILANCE COMMITTEE REPORT ON TPDS IN STATES/UTs (RECOMMENDATIONS COMMON TO MOST STATES/UTs) AND REPORT ON COMPUTERSATION OF PDS OPERATIONS

1. Income criterion for poverty be revisited. This should not be less than minimum wage for agricultural labour.

2. Poverty in urban areas to be based upon minimum wage payable to an unskilled workman in the area.

3. Above Poverty Line (APL) as a category be abolished. Alternatively, the APL category be restricted to households having annual income of Rs. 1 lakh.

4. Global Positioning System (GPS) be installed on vehicles transporting TPDS foodgrains for tracking their movement.

5. Reconstitute and activate Vigilance Committees, which should meet at regular intervals.

6. Fair Price Shop (FPS) be allotted to persons or groups having kirana/ grocery stores. Sale of non-PDS rice and wheat not to be allowed from such FPS.

7. Fresh licenses to be granted in transparent manner.

8. Door step delivery of foodgrains to FPSs.

9. There is a need for rationalizing the number of beneficiaries attached to each FPS to make the shops financially viable.

10. Complaint redressal mechanism with 24 hour helpline for lodging complaints by beneficiaries and follow up action.

11. Supply of TPDS foodgrains in small packages of 5-10 kg in HDPE bags.

12. Facility of mobile FPS especially in remote/ tribal areas to be encouraged.

13. Zero tolerance towards corruption. Strict penal action/departmental action be taken against offenders. Strengthening of enforcement and anti-hoarding machinery.

14. Independent agency to monitor working of TPDS − Ombudsman/Regulator be set up.

15. Political influence in operation of TPDS should be done away with.

16. Introduction of computersation of the entire distribution chain, right from the procurement process and ending with retail distribution by the FPS dealers.